# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# WATER RESOURCES
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5322
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2001
DECLINE IN WATER LEVEL IN RAJASTHAN
VSM (RETD.) COL. CHOUDHARY

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

(a) whether constant fall in ground water level in Rajasthan has cast its impact on agricultural production as well as on intensive crop cycle;

(b) if so, whether there is every possibility of shortage of potable water in future, where ground water is the only source of irrigation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any comprehensive action plan for utility of water shed management and water harvesting techniques to recharge the ground water level in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) Yes, Sir. Due to the consecutive drought for the last 3 years and fall in the water level in the State of Rajasthan, the agricultural production in the State has declined.

(b) & (c) Rajasthan depends on ground water to the extent of 80% for drinking purposes and 59% for irrigation purposes. Ground water is being over-exploited all over the State except in the districts of Ganganagar, Hanumannagar, Bikaner and Jaisalmer. In such areas where ground water recharge is meager, there is possibility of shortage of potable water in future due to irrigation using ground water.

(d) & (e) Water being a State subject, action to augment the ground water resources is to be taken by the concerned State Governments. To improve the ground water levels, the Government of Rajasthan has started rain water harvesting under the Famine Relief Operation. The State Government is also preparing a master plan for each district about recharging ground water.

The Government of India extends financial and technical assistance to the States. To that effect, the Central Ground Water Board is implementing a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies on Artificial Recharge of GroundWater" on pilot basis with a view to assess the efficacy of various recharge structures in some 'Over-exploited' and 'Dark' blocks of the country. The Government has earmarked an amount of Rs.25.00 crore during the IX Five Year Plan for thescheme. The Central Ground Water Board havesanctioned 11 proposals in the State of Rajasthan for artificial recharge of ground water and roof top rain water harvesting. Similarly, the Ministries of Rural Development and Agriculture are also implementing various programmes in the country having water conservation component. These programmes are:-

1. National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Area (NWDPRA).

2. Soil Conservation in the Catchment of River Valley Project.

3. Integrated Watershed Management in the Catchment of Flood Prone Rivers (FPR).

4. Watershed Development Project for control of shifting Cultivation Area (WDPSCA) in North-Eastern India.

5. Drought Prone Area Programme(DPAP).
6. Desert Development Programme (DDP).

7 Integrated Wasteland Development Project (IWDP).